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III

NOTES ABOUT THE FAMILY OF STONE
LIVING SOME TIME IN
THE PARISH OF ARDLEIGH, ESSEX.

NOTES ABOUT THE
FAMILY OF STONE

LIVING SOME TIME IN THE
PARISH OF ARDLEIGH, ESSEX.

R. H. GRUBBE

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE STONE FAMILY ASSOCIATION.

IN the following pages are presented a series of extracts from the Court Rolls of the Manors of Bovilles and Pigotts in Ardleigh, Essex County, England, compiled by Rev. Reginald H. Grubbe, the Vicar of Ardleigh; a list of entries of the name of Stone on the Parish Registers of Ardleigh, Little Bromley and Wyvenhoe, in Essex; and a copy of the will of William Stone of Much Bromley, *i. e.* Great Bromley, dated Dec. 9, 1533. Mr. Grubbe has also kindly furnished some interesting notes on an estate called Barrons in the Parish of Ardleigh, which was once in the possession of the Stone Family, and some memoranda relating to the Stones of Colchester, Essex Co. The Little Bromley, Wyvenhoe and Colchester items are included because those places are all in the immediate vicinity of Great Bromley and Ardleigh. All this material was gathered by Miss Agnes W. Lincoln, our Corresponding Secretary, during a recent visit to England.

For the information of those not familiar with the English ancestry of the Stones of this country who first settled in Watertown and Cambridge, Mass., it should be stated that Simon Stone of Watertown and Gregory Stone of Cambridge, the original Emigrants, were born in Much Bromley, now Great Bromley, Essex County, England, and their ancestry has been traced beyond reasonable doubt to Symond¹ Stone of Much Bromley who died in 1510. Symond¹ Stone of Much Bromley owned a property called "Walles," situated in Ardleigh, which he bequeathed to his second son, Walter² Stone. Ardleigh and Great Bromley are adjoining parishes and their churches are only three miles apart. There can be no doubt that the Stones mentioned in the Court Rolls of Ardleigh are of the same family from which Simon and Gregory the Emigrants descended.

The will of William Stone of Much Bromley here given is interesting, as confirming to a certain extent the theory of Wm. E. Stone, in his pamphlet on the "English Ancestry of Simon and Gregory Stone," that they (Simon and Gregory) were descended from Symond¹ Stone through the eldest son, David² Stone.* Symond¹ Stone, of Much Bromley, in his will dated May 12, 1506, and probated Feb. 10, 1510, names four sons: David,² to whom he left "my tenement called Godewyns," in Much Bromley; Walter,² to whom he left "my tenement in Ardleigh called Wallis"; Myhyll,² (*i. e.* Miles); and William,² whom I suppose to be the William Stone of Much Bromley of this will. As Walter² Stone inherited an estate in Ardleigh, his sons, if he had any, would naturally be residents of Ardleigh rather than of Great Bromley. Of Mihyll,² the third son, not the slightest further mention has yet been found, either in the Essex wills

*The line of descent is supposed to be Symond¹ Stone of Much Bromley, David² Stone of Much Bromley, Symond³ Stone of Much Bromley, David⁴ Stone of Much Bromley, Simon⁵ and Gregory⁵ Stone the Emigrants.

or in the Parish Registers that have thus far been examined, and it is quite probable that he died unmarried. William² Stone, the youngest son, as we learn from this will, had only one son, who was also named William.³ It seems fair therefore to assume that Symond³ Stone of Much Bromley, who is known to be the father of David⁴ Stone who was the father of Simon⁵ and Gregory⁶ Stone, the Emigrants, was the son of Symond¹ Stone's eldest son, David.²

The grateful thanks of the Association are due to Rev. Reginald H. Grubbe, the Vicar of Ardleigh, to Rev. Arthur E. Graham, the Rector of Great Bromley, and to Rev. Alfred D. Cope, the Rector of Little Bromley for their courtesy and kindness in furnishing information from the records in their possession.

NOTE BY THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

Since our President in his foreword above has credited me with gathering the material for this pamphlet, I wish, besides emphasizing our thanks to each of the clergymen above-named, who have all interested themselves most cordially in us and our researches, as all members of the Association who have visited our old home will testify—besides this, I wish to place the especial credit for the *unique* material of the Manor Rolls in this pamphlet where it belongs, viz., to the historical research as well as the thoughtful kindness of the Vicar of Ardleigh. Being on a pilgrimage to Great Bromley in 1903, I called at Ardleigh on Mr. Grubbe in search of Ardleigh Parish Records and Walter Stone's "tenement called Walles" in the Ardleigh of 1506. Mr. Grubbe was then indexing the old records, and readily promised to send me all the Stone entries he could find. (The Stowes were included at my request, because the names looked so very much alike in the old writing.) Not only did Mr. Grubbe promptly send the Vital Records (refusing recompense), but when more than a year later, in copying the Manor Rolls (a work due to his interest in preserving local records), when he there came across several mentions of early "Stones," he remembered our interest and sent me the careful "Notes about the family of Stone" here printed. In later correspondence came the notes about "Barrons" and on Mr. Wm. E. Stone's "English Ancestry." When I was again in England, in July, 1906, Mr. Grubbe took me to the supposed site of "Barrons" and to see Rev. Mr. Cope, who gave me the Little Bromley data. Mr. Cope told me of the raising of the stars and stripes on the Great Bromley church tower while the Stone Association window there, in memory of Gregory and Simon Stone, was being dedicated in 1904.

The Manor Rolls are still the private property of the Lord of the Manor, and except for such effort as this of Mr. Grubbe would not come within the reach of genealogist or antiquarian. These Manor Rolls date back to 1360. They do not, of course, show the relationship of father to son, but such mention as they do make is authoritative, and antedates the Church records still preserved by nearly two hundred years, and the earliest Stone will we have found by nearly a hundred years.

On p. 20 I have condensed some notes concerning the ownership of the Manors from a pamphlet on Ardleigh by Mr. Grubbe.

Medford, Mass., Nov., 1907.

AGNES W. LINCOLN.

NOTES ABOUT THE FAMILY OF STONE LIVING SOME TIME IN THE PARISH OF ARDLEIGH, ESSEX.

By Rev. R. H. GRUBBE, Vicar of Ardleigh.

The following information is gathered from the Court Rolls of the Manors of Bovills and Pigotts in Ardleigh. The originals were kindly lent me by the late Charrington Nicholl, Lord of the Manor of Bovills in Ardleigh, and I copied out many of them myself and had others—the more illegible ones—copied and bound by a professional archæologist.

The first mention is:

1416 (3 Henry V) At a Court Baron held at Bovills on the day of Mars next after the Festival of the Holy Trinity:

“Inquisicio ex officio capta et jurata per sacramentum Willelmi Meller, Johannis Eccle, Thome Baker, Johannis Huutte senioris, Johannis Huutte atte Wode, Willelmi Burstalle, *Willelmi atte Stone*, Willelmi Nevard et Johannis Clerk, qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod Tenentes^{ij}^d terre et tenementi de Gunnoteland, Tenentes^{ij}^d terre et tenementi de Paynesland nuper Walteri Badele, Willelmus^{ij}^d Stansor, Robertus Robyn^{ij}^d pro una roda terre apud le Cherche, Johannes^{ij}^d Huutte atte Mersh, Robertus Nee^{ij}^d . . . , Johannes^{ij}^d Brook et tenentes^{ij}^d terre et tenementi quondam Willelmi Robyn sunt sectatores Curie et faciunt defaultam Ideo &c.”

Translation.—“Inquisition taken according to office and sworn on the oath of William Meller, John Eccle, Thomas Baker, John Hunt the elder, John Hunt atte Wood, William Burstall, *William atte Stone*, William Nevard and John Clerk, who say on their oath that the Tenants of the land and tenement of Gunnoteland, the Tenants of the land and tenement of Paynesland (lately belonging to Walter Badley), William Stansor, Robert Robyn for one rood of land at the Church, John Hunt at the Marsh, Robert Nee . . . , John Brook and the tenants of the land and tenement formerly of William Robyn are Sutors of this Court [owe suit to this Court] and make default. Therefore, &c.”

The above men ought to have been present at this Court Baron. They are fined the sums of money written over their respective names.

No doubt William at the Stone is an ancestor of the Stone family and shows the derivation of the name. There is no remarkable stone in Ardleigh from which the name could be taken. Probably it would be some stone laid down as a landmark.

The Badleys here mentioned were an old family in Ardleigh who have given their name to Badley Hall.

The Hunts were a large family at this time. They are designated Hunt, Hunt at the Wood, Hunt at the Marsh. Over the beautiful Church Porch of Ardleigh in the flint work we read:

“Orate: p’ animabus Johis Hüte: at ye Wode et Alicie: uxoris ejus, Johis Hüte: Willi: Hüte.”

“Pray for the souls of John Hunt at the Wood and Alice his wife—of John Hunt, William Hunt.”

Probably the Hunt family built the Porch, which is said to date from about 1460.

1417 (4 Henry V). "Inquisicio ex officio capta et jurata per sacramentum Johannis Gile, Willelmi Burstalle, *Walteri atte Stone*, Johannis Clerk, Johannis Huntte atte Mersli, Willelmi Huntte, Thome Huntte, Gilberti Huntte, Thome Baker, Roberti Rykke, Willelmi Raulyn, Johannis Huntte atte Wode, Walteri Whytyng, et Ricardi Meller, qui dicunt per satramentum suum quod Gilbertus Dedham occupavit terram et tenementa cum pertinenciis vocata le Esthous in villa de Dedham post mortem Willelmi Dedham patris sui, que dimisit Willelmo Sturton ad firmam pro xxxij s. lijd ut intelligunt quos idem Willelmus solvabat dicto Gilberto antequam exivit ultra mare cum domino Rege, et ibidem ultra mare obiit seiscitus de predictis terris et tenementis, et dicunt quod quidam Johannes est filius et heres propinquior dicti Gilberti patris sui et etatis quatuor decim annorum, quem preceptum est cum predictis terris et tenementis cum pertinenciis in custodiam seiscire, &c."

Here mention is made of "*Walter atte Stone*." He and others say on their oath that Gilbert Dedham occupied land and tenements with appertinences called the East House in the village of Dedham after the death of William Dedham his father,—which lands, &c., he [demised or let] to William Sturton at a rent of 33 shillings and 4 pence as they understand. Which money the same William payed to the said Gilbert before he went beyond the sea with the lord king and there died beyond the sea, seised of the aforesaid lands and tenements, and they say that a certain John is son and next heir of the said Gilbert his father and of the age of 14 years, whom it is [now] ordered to take into custody [i. e. under guardianship being under age] with the aforesaid lands and tenements with appertinences &c.

There is still a house in Dedham called the East House.

The reference to Henry V's war in France is interesting. Perhaps Gilbert Dedham died at Agincourt on Oct. 25, 1415.

1465 (4th Edw. IV). In a Court roll of this year reference is made to land called "*Stoneland*." This may take its name from being a stoney piece—or being near the Stone, from which perhaps the Family took its name,—or from the Family itself. There are a large number of names of pieces of land given in the Court Rolls, and certainly most of the names are derived from their owners. It is not improbable therefore that the three fields called *Stoneland*, were fields which at one time belonged to a man named Stone.

"Ad hanc Curiam domini per eorum senescallum tradiderunt et ad firmam dimiserunt Roberto Rande tres campos terre vocatos *stone land*, parcellam de Bovylis. Tenendum sibi et assignatis suis a Festo sancti Michaelis archangelii proximo futuro post datum presencium usque ad finem et terminum xx^a annorum extunc proxime sequencium et plenarie completorum, &c."

Translation. "At this Court the lords [of the Manor] through their Steward handed over and let at a rent to Robert Rande three fields of land called *Stoneland*, a parcel of Bovills:—to hold for him self and his assignees from the festival of the Holy Archangel Michael next coming after the present date up to the end and terminus of 20 years then following and fully completed, &c."

1478 (17th Edw. IV). One of the duties of the "*Homage*"—or jury or assessors of a Court Baron was to present offenders. At the court Baron held this year we read—

"Et presentant quod Johannes Newman^{vjd} de Ardley husboudman, et Johannes Stone de Ardeley, wever, sunt communes venatores in warrenna domini capiendo phasanos ibidem sine licencia. Ideo in misericordia, &c."

Translation. "And they (the Homage) present that John Newman^{vd} of Ardley, husbandman and John Stone of Ardeley, Weaver, are common hunters [i. e. hunters on the common] in the Lord's warren by taking pheasants there without licence. Therefore they are fined, &c." [in misericordia].

From this we learn that John Stone of that date was both a Weaver and a poacher. John Newman was fined 6d, but we are not told how much John Stone had to pay.

I imagine every place had its Weavers in those days. In the next century however Dedham became a great place for the manufacture of Bays and Says, two kinds of woolen cloth. This was chiefly due to the arrival of foreigners from the Low countries who fled from the persecution of Philip II and Alva.

1488 (3rd Henry VII). In the list of the Homage (or jurymen) sworn at a Court in this year occurs the name of "Walter Stone."

To this court, we are told, came Walter Stone to do fealty to the Lord of the Manor for two crofts and a garden which he had lately inherited from his father. Unfortunately the name of the father is illegible.

"Ad hanc Curiam venit Walterus Stone, et fecit domino fidelitatem pro duobus croftis et uno gardino adjacenti vocatis Barons libere per cartam, que nuper fuit patris sui."

Translation. "To this Court came Walter Stone and did fealty to the Lord for two crofts and one garden adjacent called Barons [held] freely by copy [of court roll] which lately was [held by] his father."

The name "Barons," I believe still is attached to this piece of land. It occurs constantly through all the court rolls down to modern times. I have not yet located it, but if I can presently do so and there is any landmark to photograph, I shall hope to photograph it.

1492 (7th Henry VII). Among those sworn in at the Review of Frank Pledge this year was "Symond Stone."

1501 (16th Henry VIII). I read—

"Essoniam—Willelmus Forde de communi per Johannem Cole: Simon Stone de communi per Willelmum Moys, &c."

Essoniam means "An excuse for not being present at a Court Baron." There are a list of Essoniatorez at almost every Court mentioned in these Rolls. I think the meaning here is that Simon Stone, one of the commonalty [de communi] sent his excuse to the court for not being present by Williams Moys.

1523 (14th Henry VIII). In the list of the Homage of the Court Baron and for the Review of Frank Pledge this year occurs the name "Walter Stone."

1524 (15th Henry VII.) The name Walter Stone occurs in the list of the Homage.

Further we read—at the same court—

Finis terre xij d "Dominus per Senescallum suum concessit extra manus suas Waltero Stone unam croftam terre dominicalis continentem per estimacionem unam acram et dimidiam terre vocatam Barons, habendum sibi heredibus et assignatis suis de domino per virgam ad voluntatem domini secundum consuetudinem manerii per redditum annuatim vjd et sectam Curie. Qui fecit finem et fidelitatem ut patet, &c."

Translation of the above.—"The Lord of the Manor through his Steward granted out of his hands to Walter Stone one croft of the Lord's land containing by estimation one acre and a half of land called Barons, to hold for himself, his heirs and assignees, from the Lord by the rod at the will of the Lord according to the custom of the manor at a rent annually of 8d and suit of Court. Who [*i. e.* Walter Stone] paid the fine [of admission] and did fealty as lies stated [in the margin], *i. e.* the xij d mentioned above.

Here we have the regular formula quoted some hundreds of times in these Court Rolls, by which a new owner was admitted to the ownership of any land or tenement within the domain of the Lord of the Manor. He was required to come to the Court and pay a fine and do fealty. The Lord—or more often his steward—touched him with a rod,—a little twig, and thus invested him with the right to own land within the domain. Now if Walter Stone, in 1488—as we have seen—did fealty for this land called “Barous” and was admitted tenant, it is evident that this Walter Stone in 1524 was another Walter,—probably his son, certainly his heir. As the Court Roll for 1488 tells us of two generations holding this land, we may now see that three generations of Stones so far held it. The fine mentioned in the margin is xijd.

1514 (5th Henry VIII). In the list of the Homage at the Court, held on the 14th day of December this year, occurs the name “Walter Stone.”

1534 (25th Henry VIII). In the list of the “*Essoniatores*”—*i. e.* those who excused themselves from being present at a Court held on August 19—comes the name “Walter Stone.”

1555–1556 (2nd and 3rd Philip and Mary). In the list of the Homage present at a Court held on the 28th of May, occurs the name Johannes Stone, which is scratched through.

1554 (1st of Queen Mary). In the list of the Homage at a court held on April 12, occurs the name “Johannes Stone.”

1584 (26th Elizabeth). In the list of the Homage occurs the name “Ricardus Stone.”

Further I read at this Court—

“Johannes Allyn, Thomas Parker, Johannes Stevyn, de Bromley, Ricardus Stone et Petrus Moyse attomaverunt se tenentes domini per solucionem unius denarii per eorum singulos separatim solutos (*sic*) pro diversis terris et tenementis suis de isto manerio tentis per liberam cartam.”

Translation.—“John Allyn, Thomas Parker, John Stevyn of Bromley, Richard Stone and Peter Moyse made themselves tenants of the Lord by their attorneys by the payment of one penny through each one of them separately released (?) for diverse lands and tenements held of this manor by free roll [*i. e.* copy of Court roll].”

I cannot quite understand the above—but the drift of it is plain, that they went through the formality of being admitted tenants, either by themselves or through their attorneys, which latter method was not unfrequent.

At the same Court we read—

“Et quod Ricardus Stone perquisivit sibi et heredibus suis de Johanne Byrd de Colcestria unum messuagium et quatuordecim acras terre quondam Benjamin Clere, tenta de isto manerio per liberam cartam. Qui quidem Ricardus fecit domino inde fidelitatem.”

Translation of the above.—“And because Richard Stone purchased for himself and heirs of John Byrd of Colchester one messuage and 14 acres of land formerly [belonging to] Benjamin Clere, held of this manor by free roll. Which Richard indeed did fealty now to the Lord.”

1586 (28th Elizabeth). In the list of the Homage of the Court held on August 16 occurs the name Richard Stone.

1589 (31st Elizabeth). In the list of the Homage of the Court held on August 4 appears the name Ricardus Stone.

1599 (41 Queen Elizabeth). In the list of the Homage at a Court held on August 8 occurs the name Richard Stone.

[1588. *Digression*.—We may wonder whether Richard Stone was among the many Ardleigh men who went to Tilbury to join the army and navy on the famous occasion when Queen Elizabeth rode about among her troops, when the Spanish Armada was daily expected to arrive off our shores.

At a Court held on August 5, 1588, there were only 3 men to form the Homage out of the usual number of 16 to 24. The Court Roll then goes on to say—

“Et quod multi tenentes de isto manerio fecerunt defaltam ad hanc curiam, sed quia videtur homagio quod sunt in servicio dicte domine Regine apud West Tyllbury in defencione regni Anglie contra Hispanos, Ideo defalte eorum pardnantur.”

Translation. “And because many tenants of this manor have made default at this Court, but because it seems to the Homage that they are in the service of the said Lady [our] Queen at West Tilbury in defence of the kingdom of England against the Spaniards, Therefore their defaults are pardoned.”

Richard Stone's name does not appear either in the small list of Homage nor in any of the business done that day. He had no doubt gone to Tilbury.]

1606 (3 James I). In a list of the Homage of the Court held on Jan. 7 of this year we find the name of “Richard Stone” in the Homage.

1607 (4 James I). At a Court held on Sept. 30 we read—

“Homagium presentant videlicet we do presente that Richard Stone hath sould his land called Newmans, holden of this mannor by the yerelie Rent of xxd and suite of courte unto Nathaniell Heckford. ideo preceptum est Ballivo dstringere predictum Nathaniell quod sit ad proximam Curiam ad faciendam fidelitatem sectam Curie et solvendum Relevium domino, &c.”

The Purchaser in this case had ignored the Court of the Lord of the Manor and had not done fealty. “Therefore order is given to the Bailiff to {compel
{distrain} the aforesaid Nathaniell that he may be at the next Court to make fealty, suit of Court and pay a Relief to the Lord.”

1608 (5th James I). In a Court Roll of this date—

Xij^d. Et quod Nathaniell Heckford non venit ad hanc Curiam ad faciendum domino Servicium debitum pro certis terris per prefatum Nathaniel dudum empttis de quodam Ricardo Stone, ideo idem Nathaniel in misericordia xij^d.

And because Nathaniel Heckford has not come to this Court to do service to the Lord due for certain lands lately bought by the said Nathaniel from a certain Richard Stone, therefore the same Nathaniel is fined xijd.

Extracts made from the Old Court Rolls of Ardleigh, Essex,
and commented on by me.

REGINALD H. GRUBBE,
Vicar of Ardleigh.

May, 1905.

Notes concerning an estate called Barrons in Ardleigh, Essex.

In the Court Rolls of the Manor of Bovills in Ardleigh, in the year 1361 (34 Edw. III.), occurs the following entry:—

“Preceptum est distringere Robertum Porter, Stephanum Parson, Galfridum Baron.

* * * * *

Galfridus Baron dicit quod non fecit transgressionem in bruera sicut prædictum per voluntatem suam et petit, &c. Et Inquisitio dicit quod depascit dictam brueram voluntarie, et Ideo in misericordia, &c.”

Translation.—“It is ordered to distrain Robert Porter, Stephen Parson, Geoffrey Baron.

* * * * *

Geoffrey Baron says that he did not make trespass on the heath as aforesaid of his own will and he seeks, &c. [presumably acquittal]. And the Enquiry says that he does pasture [his cattle] on the said Heath of his own will, and therefore he is fined, &c.”

The fine seems to have been 8d. This proves the existence of a family named Baron living in Ardleigh in 1361.

In the Court Rolls of 1459 (37 Henry VI) we read—

“Et ad hanc Curiam dominus per Senescallum suum similiter tradidit et ad firmam dimisit Galfrido Doryvall duas croftas terre cum alneto vocatas Baronnysland et unam parcelam terre de novo inclusam, parcelam campi vocati Motegollefeld cum suis pertinenciis absque inde faciendo [*sic*]. Et licet eidem Galfrido sepes circa dictam terram crescentes sesionabiliter loppare et . . . heddare. Tenendum eidem Galfrido aut ejus certo Attornato a Festo Sancti Michaelis archangeli proximo futuro post datum presencium usque ad finem et terminum decem annorum ex tunc proxime sequencium, &c. Reddendo inde domino vel heredibus suis decem et novem solidos legalis monete ad prædictos terminos equaliter, &c. Et dat de fine, &c. Et fecit fidelitatem, &c.”

Finis
j capo

Translation.—“And at this Court the Lord [of the Manor] through his Steward in like manner handed over and let out to farm to Geoffrey Doryvall two crofts of land with an alder grove called ‘Baronnysland’ [*i. e.*, Baron-his-land, Baron’s land] and one parcel of land newly enclosed, a parcel of the field called Motegollefeld, with its pertinences [the next 3 words make no sense]. And it is permitted to the same Geoffrey to ‘lop and head’ in-the-right-season the hedges growing round the said land. To be held by the same Geoffrey or by a certain Attorney of his from the Festival of Saint Michael the Archangel next coming after the date of these presents until the end and terminus of ten years from thence following, &c. [It is terrible Latin!] By paying rent to the Lord or his heirs ten and nine shillings of legal money equally at the aforesaid terms, &c. And he gives for a fine, &c. And he does fealty, &c.”

The margin says that the fine (paid on entering into possession) was “1 capo.” I think this means “one chicken”; but no Latin dictionary seems to give the word.

The family of Baron had evidently owned land and given their name to it.

In 1488 (3 Henry VII) is the following entry in the Court Rolls—

“Ad hanc Curiam venit Walterus Stone, et fecit domino fidelitatem pro duobus croftis et uno gardino adjacenti vocatis Barons libere per cartam, que nuper fuit . . . patris sui.

Translation.—“To this Court came Walter Stone and did fealty to the Lord [of the Manor] for two crofts and one garden adjacent, called ‘Barons’ [held] freely by copy-of-court-roll, which lately was . . . of his father.”

It is unfortunate that part of the original document is illegible here—but the plain inference is that Walter Stone had just come into the possession of the two crofts and garden called Barons—having inherited it from his Father. He now comes to do the ordinary fealty and pay the fine that he may be established in his estate as a tenant of the Manor.

1524 (15th Henry VIII). An extract from the list of the Homage for this year, which has already been given on page 7, shows that Walter Stone was still in possession of Barrons.

In this extract the expression “by the rod” (*per virgam*) is the technical expression used for admitting a tenant. The Lord of the Manor—or his steward—held in his hand a piece of stick and touched (I believe) the tenant with it on the shoulder. Probably the tenant knelt and put his hands between his Lord’s hands. This is the usual way of doing fealty, and is the ceremony still performed at Oxford and Cambridge when men take their degree. They do fealty to the Vice-Chancellor. The “suit of court” means, I think, that he is pledged to come to the Court when the Lord holds it, and is fined when he does not come.

Probably this Walter Stone had just succeeded to this property, following the Walter Stone of 1488. Or it might be an additional bit of land is now being added.

It seems possible that the Stone family owned “Barons” all these years. (See page 12.)

The next three entries are dated 1514, 1516 and 1520. They, therefore, should have come before the preceding one. The first two are of value as they give some indication of the locality of “Barons.” The entry of 1514 speaks of a ditch called Barons; that of 1516 certainly refers to the same ditch, and is described as being *near* Barons.

In the Court Roll of 1514 (5 Henry VIII)—

“Preceptum est Willelmo Moyse emendare et scurare xl perticatas fossati vocati Barons versus Mowstrett ducentis usque Dunhom’s broke, citra proximam Curiam sub pena xld.”

Translation.—“Order is given to William Moyse to mend and scour out 40 perches of the ditch called ‘Barons’ towards ‘Mowstrett’ leading up to Dunhom’s brook, before the next Court under penalty of 40 pence.”

In the Court Roll of 1516 (7 Henry VIII)—

“Preceptum est Willelmo Moyse^{xxi} scurare xl perticatas fossati juxta Barons versus Moystret ducentis usque Downhams Hoke”

Translation.—“Order is given to William Moyse to scour out 40 perches of the ditch near Barons towards Moystreet, leading up to Downham’s Hoke [? Brook].”

William Moyse was fined 20 pence for not having cleaned the ditch out.

In 1520 (11 Henry VIII) occurs the following entry—

“Ad hanc curiam venit Willelmus Moysse et sursum reddidit in manus domini ij Crofta terrae cum quodam alneto vocato Baronsland p[arcellam] manerii de Pycotts ad opus Ricardi Warre et heredum suorum sub condicione solucionis uti unde xls pre manibus soluti et xls in Festo Sancti Michaelis Archangeli proximo futuro Et in Festo Sancti Michaelis Archangeli extunc proximo sequenti xxs. Et si deficiat in solucione alicujus summe predicte in parte aut in toto ad aliquod Festum Festorum predictorum in quo solvi debeat, quod tunc bene licebit praedicto Willelmo in dicto Crofto terre cum ceteris premissis reintrare et in pristino statu suo possidere, ista sursum reditio in aliquo non obstante. Et fecit finem et fidelitatem, &c.”

Translation.—"To this Court came William Moysse and surrendered into the Lord's hands two crofts of land with a certain alder-grove called Baronsland [part] of the Manor of Pigotts . . . to the use of Richard Warre and his heirs on condition of the payment [two or three words here make no meaning] of 40 shillings in hand before and 40 shillings on the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next coming, and on the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next following after that [another] 20 shillings. And if he fails in payment of any of the aforesaid sum in part or in whole on any Feast day of the aforementioned Feasts on which he ought to pay, that then it shall be lawful for the aforesaid William to re-enter on the aforesaid croft of land with the other premises and to possess it in its ancient condition, in spite of this surrender. And he paid a fine and did fealty, &c."

It looks rather as if this "two crofts and alder grove," called "Barons," was the same as that mentioned in 1459 and 1488; and if so, the land was not always in the hands of the Stone family. It is possible, however, that the "Baron's" estate included more than the two crofts and alder grove.

In copying out the later Court Rolls I have extracted the substance without copying the exact words. Here is another note, dated 1772—

"The death of John Lugar was presented, who had held lands called 'Barons.' His son Edward Lugar now came, and was accepted Tenant."

Here is another extract of my notes on the Court of 1784—

"Edward Lugar has aliened and sold to James Vince of Ardley, yeoman, a messuage with barn and stable, and three crofts of land—about 7 acres—called Barons. James Vince acknowledges the Tenure and pays the alienation Fine."

I am convinced from these extracts, and especially the last one, that I can now locate "Barons." It is a very tumble-down old farmhouse, known generally as "Old Shields," and thus denominated on the Ordinance Map. The present freehold owner and occupier is ——— Vince, who is the grandson of the James Vince who bought it of the Lugar family in 1784. James Vince bought at least one other plot of land in Ardleigh; but I am fairly certain that the little homestead now called "Old Shields" is the original Barons. The land borders on a lane called "Morrits," "Morrity," or "Morris" lane. This must be the "Mow-street" of 1514 and the "Moy-street" of 1516. Further, I understand from the present Vince that the field at the back of his house is still called "Motegeffield," or something like it, as mentioned in the Court Roll of 1459.

Dunhom's Brook I have not been able to identify. There is notoriously much less water in this neighborhood than there was 60 or 70 years ago.

The old house is much neglected by its present owner, who says he shall spend nothing on it and let it tumble. It might, I think, be a seventeenth century house. There is a large old fireplace filled up (if I remember right) with a modern grate.

The owner is a very shy man and dislikes visitors.

This little estate is on the S.E. of Ardleigh parish, and very near to the borders of Great Bromley. It may be that the Stone property in Great Bromley was somewhere near.

In reading the pamphlet entitled "The English Ancestry of Simon and Gregory Stone," I am struck with the fact that not a little information can be found out about the names mentioned in it. Evidently many of those mentioned were Ardleigh people.

1. On page 1, mention is made of Stephen Day. I find there was a Stephen Day, son of John and Margaret, baptized at Ardleigh in 1631.

2. On page 6, mention is made of William Littlebury, whose will was dated 1571. I feel sure this is the William Littlebury mentioned eight times in the Court Rolls. He is mentioned in 1549 (twice), 1551, 1552 (twice), 1553 (twice) and 1555. He lived at Burnt Heath, which is the point where Ardleigh borders on Great Bromley. He did fealty for a tenement called Rands. He was fined 11d. on one occasion for not being present; and 2s/- on another occasion for not having cleaned out a ditch as the Court had ordered. He was also elected to be "Bailiff of the Common."

3. On page 7, John Laveren's marriage with Mercy Stone is mentioned (1581). In the Ardleigh Registers occur the following entries:—

- 1593 George Loveron, son of John and Mercy, baptised.
- 1596 Mercy Loveron, daughter of John and Mercy, baptised.
- 1600 John Loueron, ye elder, buried.

Loveron or Loueron is a name occurring frequently in the early Court Rolls and Registers. There are so many "Johns" that they confuse. Probably this is the John Loueron who was Church Warden at Ardleigh for several years and whose "mark" is made on every leaf of the Register for several years. There are 37 references to a "John Loveron" in the Court Rolls, the first being in the year 1459, when one did fealty for a tenement called "Clerkys." The death of a John Loueron is reported in 1605, when his son John is stated to be his heir and successor, and accordingly does fealty. (The Loverings of New England come from this family.—W. E. S.)

4. On page 9, mention is made of John Newman. It occurs in a will "probed" in 1510.

This may be identical with a John Newman mentioned in the Court Rolls of Ardleigh in 1478, who together with John Stone (weaver) are fined for hunting pheasants. The name occurs again in 1496, when he is fined for not having cleaned out his ditch at Burnt Heath. Again, in 1505, he is ordered to clean out the same ditch.

5. On pages 9 and 11, mention is made of a "tenement called Walles in Ardleigh." This tenement, no doubt, took its name from a family of Wall, who lived at Ardleigh in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. "Gilbert at Wall" is mentioned in the Court Roll of 1370, and again in 1379. Constant reference to the family follows. The first reference to "Wallysland" is in the Roll of 1418, when Robert Veyse is fined two pence for cutting off one branch of an oak tree growing on land called "Wallysland." In 1459, Johanna Wylegh, widow, and John Pache, "chaundeler," surrendered a messuage and 30 acres of land, called Wallys, to the use of John Baker of Bentley [and] Johanna Wylegh, daughter of the aforesaid Johanna and of William Wylegh, and their heirs. In 1478, William Wheler, senior, surrendered out of court into the hands of the Lord of the Manor, through the hands of John Patch, Tiler, now present, and of John Patche, senior, and William Patche and other tenants of the Lord, who bear witness to it,—one messuage and 30 acres of land, with appertinences, called Wallys, to the use of William Wheler, his son, and his heirs.

In 1519, the Homage present that John Cole, lately of Ardleigh, before his death, surrendered into the hands of the Lord, through his bailiff, in the presence of Henry Perepoynt and John Patche, tenants of the Lord, who bear witness, . . . one messuage and 30 acres of land and 3 roods of meadow, with appertinences, called Walles alias Harvey, . . . to the use of John Cole, his son, of Dedham, &c.

To the same Court came John Cole, Junior, son of the said John Cole, and did fealty for one tenement called "Hyhouse" alias Walles with two crofts of land, &c.

After this "Walles" and "Hyhouse" are not mentioned again; but "Hawies" is mentioned frequently—even as late as 1788.

REGINALD H. GRUBBE,
Vicar of Ardleigh.

*Entries of the name of Stone, or Stow, in the Baptismal Registers of
Ardleigh, Essex, up to the year 1800.*

1560	Thomasin Stone.
1560	Ellen Stow, dau. of Thomas.
1562	Grace Stow, dau. of Thomas.
1563	John Stone.
1565	Ann, dau. of Thomas Stow.
1567	Elizabeth, dau. of Thomas Stow.
1567	Thomas, son of Thomas Stow.
1569	John Stow, s. of Thomas and Marion.
1574	Antony, s. of Thomas and Marion.
1595	George, s. of John and Margaret.
1598	Elizabeth, d. of John and Margaret.
1602	John Stow, s. of John.
1612	Stephen Stow, s. of John.

*Entries of the name of Stone, or Stow, in the Marriage Registers of Ardleigh,
Essex, to 1805.*

1559	Thomas Stow	married Marian Fisher.
1588	John Snowden	" Mary Stowe.
1589	Thomas Stowe	" Frances Heckforde.
1590	Robert Hall	" Grace Stow.
1594	John Stow, Widower,	" Margreat Brewster.
1625	Woodhouse Wrench	" Elizabeth Stone.
1635	Richard Stone	" Susan Gery.
1674	Nathaniel Stone*	" Elizabeth Pettitt.
1695	ditto*	ditto
1776	William Merchant, Bachelor,	" Ann Stow, Spinster.
1805	Sullin Stone, Bach., of Hatfield, Herts, and Elizabeth Cook, Spinster.	

*By some error in copying, a few marriages are entered identically in both these years.

*Entries of the name of Stone, or Stow, in the Burial Registers of Ardleigh,
Essex.*

1557	Roger Stow.
1560	Alice Stone.
1561	Annis Stowe.
1562	Thomazin Stone.
1566	Alice Stow.
1567	ffayth Stone.
1576	Thomas Stow, Senior.
1580	Simon Stone, Bachelor.
1588	Marian Stow, wife of Thomas.
1591	Richard Stow, s. of William.
1591	William Stone.
1593	Thomas Stow, "an ancient man."
1593	An Stow, wife of John.
1599	Francis Stone, servant.
1605	ffrancis Stow, widow.
1607	"Mother" Stone.
1618	Elizabeth Stow, dau. of John.
1632	John Stow, "an old Housholder."
1637	John Stone, s. of John.

1596284

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH REGISTER.

Records begin —	1538.	Burials.
“	“	1538. Baptisms.
“	“	1539. Marriages.

Baptisms.

- 1540 Johan Stone daughter unto William baptised the 16 daie of December in the said 32nd yere of King Henry's reign. [The name Stone is not certain in this entry. A. W. L.]
- 1544 Edmund Stone sonne unto George Stone the seventh day of April baptised in the said thirty-five yere of King Henry's reign A.D. 1544
- 1544 William Stone and Belsen . . se [this name very doubtful to decipher] Stone being twin children of [blank] baptised the 22 of July in the 36 year of King Henry the VIII
- 1545 Margaret Stone daughter unto John, born in marriage by his wife, bapt. the 6th day of March in the said 37 year of King Henry
- 1546 Luke Stone son unto George Ston baptizd the 16 day October in the 38th year of King Henry's reign Anno Dom. 1546
- 1550 or 1551 Anne Stone daughter of John Stone bapt. the 13 day of May in the s^d 4th year of King Edward the Sixth
- 1552 Catheryn Stone daughter of George Stone bapt. 19 day January in the said 6th year of King Edward's reign A.D. 1552
- 1563 Awdry stone daughter of William Stone bapt the XIII day of Aprill in the said V year of Queen Elizabeth's reign. A.D. 1563
- 1564 Barbara Stone daughter of William was bapt. the XXII day of October in said VI year of Queen Elizabeth's reign
- 1568 Edeth Stone daughter of William Stone was baptised 19 September in s^d 10 year of Queen Elizabeth's reign

The above entries were noted from the Little Bromley Parish Register (July, 1906) by Agnes W. Lincoln largely at the dictation of the rector, Rev. Alfred D. Cope, with care as to names and dates, and with general intent to preserve the quaint phraseology and spelling; but owing to haste and lack of revision, the transcript is doubtless somewhat inexact in the latter respect. As a rule, abbreviations presumably made by A. W. L. for speed have been extended in modern form, so that the older form is to be trusted where it occurs. Some names doubtful in the original are so noted as they occur. William in the last two entries seemed to be spelled Willian. The name Edeth was blindest of all, but was later identified by Mr. Cope by comparison with its use elsewhere.

The *following* entries from the Little Bromley Parish Register were copied less hastily later by the Rev. Alfred D. Cope and sent Miss Lincoln. Unfortunately he omitted a more careful copy of the items already taken by her.

Stone Baptisms in Little Bromley continued :—

Baptisms.

francis stone was baptysed the xth day of March in the sayd xixth yeare of the raigne of Queene Elizabeth anno dñi 1576

Henry Stone sonne of Willm stone was baptysed the xiiith day of november in the said xxist yeare of the raigne of Queene Elizabeth anno dñi 1579

Robert stone sonne of Thom̄s stone of lytle Bentley was baptysed the xxviiith day of October in the xxiiith yeare of the raigne of Queene Elizabeth anno dñi 1582

Marriages.

John Payne senior and Margaret Stone marryed the xvith day of Aprill in the sayd second year of King Edward the vi anno dñi 1548

George Stone wydower and Joan payne marryed the xvith day of May [? 1550]

Willm Stone singleman marryed to E . . . Cowye the daughter of Robert Cowye the viith day of June in the ffowrth yeare of Queene Elizabeth's raigne anno dñi 1562

William stone and Joan ? Ecler marryed the ffirst day of October in the said xiith yeare of Queene Elizabeth's raigne anno dñi 1570

Willm Stone and Suzan March marryed the vith day of february in the xviith yeare of Queene Elizabeth's raigne anno dñi 1575

William Mount of Much Bromley and Mary Stone of this parish, marryed togeather on the xxiind day of October in the sayd xxvith yeare of Queene Elizabeth's raigne, anno dñi 1583

Leonard Rolfe of this parish and ffrauncys stone of much bromley marryed the xvth day of december in the xxxiind yeare of Queene Elizabeth's raigne, anno dñi 1589

Peter Sallys of Much Bromley, singleman and Edeth Stone of lytel bromley, singlewoman, marryed by lycens of M^r Comissary of Essex the viiith day of february in the xlist yeare of Queene Elizabeth's raigne, anno dñi 1598

John Gy(?)rard and Barbara Stone marryed the xviith day of January in the forty year of Queene Elizabeth's raigne anno dñi 1597

Burials.

Edward Stone buryed the xiith day of december in the sayd xxxvith year of the raigne of King Henry the viii anno dñi 1544

John Stone buryed the xxiiith day of May in the sayd ffirst year of King Edward the vith raigne anno dñi 1547

Elizabeth Stone buryed the xxviith day of June in the sayd ffirst year of the raigne of King Edward the vi anno dñi 1547

John Stone buryed the third day of february in the second year of the raign of King Edward the vi anno dñi 1547

William Stone buryed the xxixth day of October in the sayd third yeare of the raigne of King Edward the vith anno dñi 1549

Alyes Stone wyf of georg stone buryed the xxiiird day of January in the sayd sixth yeare of King Edward the vith raigne anno dñi 1552

- Edward Stone sonne of Willm Stone was buryed the xith day of november
in the said first year of the raigne of Queen Mary, anno dñi 1553
- Alyes Stone daughter of John Stone was buryed the xixth day of Aprill
in the sayd third yeare of Queene Elizabeth's raigne anno dñi 1561
- Mary Stone daughter of John Stone was buryed the xiiith day of december
in the sayd vth year of Queene Elizabeth's raigne anno dñi 1562
- Penuel (?) Stone buryed the third day of July in the sayd xiith yeare of
the raigne of Queene Elizabeth, anno dñi 1570
- Jone Stone wydow buryed the xith day of June in the sayd xvth yeare of
the raigne of Queene Elizabeth anno dñi 1573
- William Stone buryed the xxviith day of March in the xxivth yeare of the
raigne of Queene Elizabeth anno dñi 1582
- Joan Stone wyf of Jhn Stone was buryed the last day of June in the sayd
xxxivth yeare of Queene Elizabeth's raigne anno dñi 1592
- Rev. Mr. Cope adds in his letter: "Do you know that about five or six
miles from here [Little Bromley] there is a hamlet called Stone's Green
in the parish of Great Oakley? No doubt the rector, the Rev. D. S.
Ingram, could tell you something of its history."

Wyvenhoe Registers.

1595 Jone Stowe married Thomas Darrell.

1650 William Stone " Eliz. Michell.

The marriages from 1624 to 1647 are missing.

The following, from the Parish Register of Great Bromley, Essex, is the
record of baptism of Joan Clarke, the wife of Simon¹ Stone, the Emigrant:
Jone Clarke, dau. of William Clarke, bap. the 21st of Maii, 1596.

*Extracted from the Principal Registry of the Probate Divorce and Admiralty
Division of the High Court of Justice.*

In the Archdeaconry of Colchester.

Testm Willi Stone De bromleggh mag

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN the ixth daye of Decembre the yer of our lorde God mⁱ v^e xxxiiijth—I WILLIA STONE of the Pariske of moche bromleggh in the Countie of Essex husbandman syke in body but hope in mynde thanks to Jhu make & ordey this my psent testamet & laste will in the man & forme following First I bequith my soule vnto almighty God to o^r blessed lady saynt Mary & to all the holy copany of hevyn and my body to be buried in the churchyarde of moche bromleggh be forsaide Also I bequeath to the hie awt of the forsaide church of bromligh for my tithes forgoton xij^d Also y do bequeth to the mother Church of Poullis in london ijd Item y bequeth vnto eny one of my god childern a lambe or els xviij in mony Item I bequeth to Willia Mannyng of the same pish a dublet of bukkeskyne Item to John Stone of Wyly my best cote except one Item I will that all souch lands & tents with the appurtenances whiche I hane or hereafter shall fortune to hane in moche bromleggh Ardleggh or elswher within Essex or other place that Jane my wife shalhaue them aslong as she leveys kepyng and orderyng my childern as thei shulde be keppe And if it fortune that Jane my wife depte oute of this psent liif before Willia my sone come to lawfull age then I will that John Monte shalhaue the disposicon of all my saide lands & tents to the moste best pfith to thentent to se the orderyng & kepyng of all my childern vnto the tyme thei come to ther lawfull age Also after the decease of Jane my wif I will that my forsaude sone Willia Stone shalhaue all my lands & tents a boue named wt all ther ptenne in fee symple for eumore when he comyth to lawfull age as is aforesaide paying to euy one of his v susters xxvjs viij^d thus to be paide first after his entest a twelve monyth he shall paye or cause to be paide to euy one of his susters vjs viij^d And euy yer next ensuyng to euy one of them vis viij^d vnto the tyme that euy suster haue to her pte xxvjs viij^d And if it fortune any of his susters to depte before that her parte be diuided amongs the saide Willia and his susters they being alive be equall porcons Provided alwey that if the same Willia depte this worlde afore he come to lawfull age withoute issue of his body lawfully begoton that they my dought Elizabeth shal haue my tent called Masons lying in Ardleggh w^t the space of vj yers At her entryng xxs that tyme xij month aft xxs and so euy yer next ensuyng xxs vnto the tyme the said (——) of vijs be truly content and paide Also I will that my dought Jane shallhaue myne other tents called Martyns & Mablotts lying in moche bromleggh wt ther apptenances paying vnto Margaret & yong Jane xiiijli sterling thus to be paide The best xij monyth after her entryng to eu of her ij susters aboue named xiijs iij^d and then so forth euy yer then next folowyng to either of them xiijs xiiij^d Vnto the tyme that the full sm of iijli be truly content & paide Also I orden & make Jane my wife and John Monte Taylor myne execut And I will that the saide John Monte ou & aboue all his costs shalhaue vjs viij^d to se that this my testamet & laste will be fulfilled The residue of all my goods cattles & detts before not bequeathed or assigned I give them to Jane wife to se this my testamet & last will fulfilled to pay my detts to se my body brought honestly to the yerth and to dispose for me in deds of charite as it shall seme her most best to the plesuer of God & helth of my soule and all crsten soules These being witnes—Sr WILLIA BOYLER-STAF-JOHN STANEWEN-WILLIA AMNYNG-JOHN SOLLE | JOHN DAVY wt others.

FOS. 10. O.B.
HEB.

Francys 1514

Colchester items in a letter from Rev. R. H. Grubbe.

"I was looking through some old deeds at Colchester the other day, and found the following entries, which show that there was a family of Stone of some importance resident there in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. I should make a note of these names, as it is always possible something may turn up to connect the Colchester Stones with the Great Bromley Stones. They, probably, have a common origin.

1461-83 In the list of inhabitants of Colchester, who did fealty to Edward IV., is John Stone.

1521 John Stone was sworn in as a "Tithing man" (Decennarius).

1534 In the list of inhabitants who swore fealty to Henry VIII. this year are James, John, Walter and William Stone.

1538 John Stone's signature is on a deed making certain surrounding lands "Several." [Perhaps this means surrendering public or common land to some individual for private ownership. I am not sure.]

1548 John Stone is a common Council Man for the Bourough of Colchester.

1549 John Stone is ditto ditto.

"I fear I have exhausted all the Ardleigh records now, but I am always on the look out to find anything about the place, and it will give me great pleasure to let you know if I should ever find anything about the Stones."

From "A Few Notes on the Parish of Ardleigh, in Essex, and Its Neighborhood," a pamphlet by Rev. R. H. Grubbe. 1905.

[Condensed and in several places a few words substituted for fuller detail by A. W. L.]

Ardleigh and the Manors.

Ardleigh is a British name signifying "high pasture land." . . . In the days of Edward the Confessor the land in Ardleigh belonged to six gentlemen (Freemen). Shortly afterwards it all belonged to two, whose names were Osbert and Scapie. When William I. made his survey of Ardleigh for the Domesday Book, the Saxon landowners had been turned out, and we find the parish divided among four of William's Norman followers. Their names were Roger de Ramis, who owned that part where Ardleigh Hall now stands; Hugh de Gurnai, who owned Bovills Hall and the lands around; Robert Gernon, who owned the neighborhood of Moze Hall; and Geoffery de Magnaville, who owned the part where Martells Hall now stands.

The Manor of "Pigotts," now called Ardleigh Hall.

Roger de Ramis was one of those Norman nobles who came over from France with William the Conqueror, and after helping him to conquer England, was rewarded with several estates. To him was given the house and lands now known as Ardleigh Hall, formerly called "Pigotts." His chief residence was at Raines, in Essex. He had to pay to the king, yearly, enough money to support ten knights with their horses and armour, in return for his estates. . . . The second Roger de Ramis . . . paid the king a half knight's fee, *i. e.*, sufficient for the support of half a knight,

for his estate in Ardleigh alone, which must have been considerable. He gave the church in Ardleigh over to the care of the monastery of St. John's, Colchester, which probably means that he built the church. This was in King Stephen's reign. But . . . the family of de Ramis . . . had so many other estates that they "let" Ardleigh, as we should say, to a family of the name of Picott.

Sir Ralph Picott lived here in the reigns of Kings Richard I. and John. He also held an estate called Picotts in Saling, Essex. His son, Sir William, in Henry III.'s reign, was bound to provide, yearly, one sparrowhawk to the king in return for holding the estate or manor of Pigotts, in Saling. In 1194 . . . Ralph Picott paid 50/ as the equivalent for providing his half-knight to the king. And about 1210 we find he tenanted one carucate of land; *i. e.*, about 100 acres, in Ardleigh, belonging to Roger de Ramis. . . . His great-grandson, Sir Ralph Pycott, sold the manor in 1329 to William de Tey. Five generations of Tey held it before Thomas, who inherited Picotts, and was a knight. He died Dec. 31st, 1540. He used to pay King Henry VIII. twelve shillings a year for the estate. All his large estates were divided among his four daughters. His land in Ardleigh went to his daughter Mary, who married Sir Thomas Nevill. Her son . . . Thomas Nevill seems to have parted with Pigotts Hall, for the next owner we find is William Cardinall, Esq., of Great Bromley, who died Aug. 7th, 1568, leaving it to his son William. He seems to have sold it, and there were three families before the present owner, Mr. John Fenn. The house is now an old farm house, with a modern red-brick front.

The Manor of Bovills.

The Manor of Bovills, or Bradvills, derived its name from some owners who owned it in the reign of King Henry II. . . . Richard de Bovill, from whom the manor takes its name, was a rich man in the place, and a Benefactor to St. Botolph's Priory in Colchester, in the year 1189. . . . Afterwards this manor, also, came into the possession of the Tey family, before-mentioned. It was held of the Honor of Clare; *i. e.*, the holder, instead of paying his due to the King, as was the case in the Manor of Pigotts, paid it to the Baronial Family, who held the estates of the Earldom of Clare. . . . After Thomas Tey died, in 1540, his youngest daughter, Frances, brought it in marriage to her first husband, Thomas Bonham, Esq., whose son, Thomas Bonham, sold it in 1582. After some nine sales mingled with various inheritances, in 1892 it was purchased by Charrington Nicholl, Esq., of Colchester, who died in 1905, greatly regretted in Ardleigh, where he will be long remembered for his kindness and beneficence.

The Church.

The first mention of a Church at Ardleigh is in King Stephen's reign (1135-1154), when Roger de Ramis, Lord of the Manor of Pigotts, gave the Church to the Abbey of St. John's, Colchester. . . . Probably the Church has been many times rebuilt. The Tower and Porch now standing are said to date from 1460 . . . the whole Church excepting the Tower and Porch were rebuilt by the efforts of Canon Perry, Vicar of Ardleigh, in 1882. The Church is dedicated to St. Mary. The Porch is "large and handsomely built, with a mixture of free stone and flints."

There are no monuments of any age.

From a letter from Rev. Alfred D. Cope, Rector of Little Bromley, Feb., 1907.

"I am sending you three photographs of our Church. . . . It must have borne the same appearance externally to most of the Stones who lived here, and the altar rails, put up by the order of Laud, when he was our Bishop, must have been familiar to all the Lincolns who lived here, and no doubt some of them have knelt at these same rails, which have been most carefully preserved for more than 250 years.

"The Body of our Church dates from about 1100, and the Tower was built between 1400 and 1500—probably somewhere very early between the two.

"Our East window is the first in England in which St. Cedde, the missionary Bishop of the East Saxons, was represented. I hear that another Church has followed suit. He was, I believe, the first Bishop of these parts who was canonized, and was brother to the celebrated St. Chad of Lichfield."

